



Metro Waste Authority Audit of Plymouth UCC 8/13/2008

The Plymouth Green Team invited Metro Waste Authority to come to Plymouth for a recycling and waste management audit on August 13, 2008. Present were Sara James, Metro Waste Authority, Lynnae Hentzen and Peggy Fleming, Plymouth Green Team, and Dan Olson and Anissa Bacon, Plymouth staff.

Positives

- We do 95% of our printing ourselves and we use recycled paper.
- Interior windows allow natural light to illuminate hallways
- We use china and glass in our kitchen.
- Lights are turned off in unused areas.
- We've recently changed to programmable thermostats.
- A MidAmerican Energy audit is in the works.
- We can apply for a grant from Metro Waste Authority each year to help us implement some of the suggested changes. Up to \$2,500 is available annually per group and the application is on their website.

Suggestions/Recommendations (Suggestions highlighted are already being adopted.)

- Unplug appliances not in use to eliminate power drain.
- Turn computers, monitors, scanners, printers, etc. off at night. Plug them into a power strip and cut the power with one switch.
 - Metro Waste Authority reports that by turning off and cutting the power to 10 computers every night they saved \$1,500 on their electric bill in a year!
- Install XLERATOR hand dryers in restrooms. They use 1/3 the power of regular hand dryers and dry your hands completely in 10-15 seconds. This will save on paper towels and their disposal.
- Install prominent signage at eye level above recycling bins stating what can be recycled.
- Encourage visitors to take their plastic bottles home with them instead of putting them in the church trash and recycling them at Artistic Waste on Euclid. Plastic bottles with necks can be recycled together.
- Add a compost bin to our waste management stream for hand towels and kitchen waste.
- Single stream recycling is almost here, so rather than getting more recycling bins and separating items, have Metro Waste leave 2 bins at the church for recycling waste from events held at the church meeting rooms and save them until they are ready to

do single stream. (Alternatively, we'll ask groups who meet in the church as well as members of the congregation and staff to take their plastic with them for recycling. Plymouth Green Team is working with Dan Olson to recycle any plastic left in the church.

- Recycle church's used compact fluorescent bulbs as well as those from members. Home Depot is also now taking bulbs for recycling.
- Recycle used computers and electronics. Bondurant sends them to a Scott County facility that has the capability to shred hard drives and disassemble electronic components for recycling.
- Add recycling bins for Greenwood and Burling Rooms.
- Green Team Sunday Table: Show examples of things that can be recycled.
- Signage asking people to turn off the lights when they leave a room. If you are returning within 15 minutes, you can leave them on. If not, turn them off.
- Use reusable dishes, cups, and flatware in preschool classrooms for snack time instead of paper
- Consider environmentally friendly cleaning supplies –
 - Chlorox Green products are good
 - Plymouth Member Ruth Kneile sells Shaklee and can give us a discount.
- Use no-VOC paints during construction/maintenance. Our regular supplier has them.
 - Latex paints can be dried out and put in the trash.
 - Oil based paints must be taken to Bondurant.
- Use earth-friendly alternative products to wax floors

When you recycle, you are also lowering the cost of garbage disposal.